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EPA:

5 committees schedule hearings on Colo. mine spill

Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporter

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Five congressional committees have scheduled hearings next month on the massive Aug. 5 spill of polluted water triggered accidentally by U.S. EPA contractors at an abandoned southwest Colorado mine.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee set a Sept. 16 hearing with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on the Gold King mine spill ([Greenwire](#), Aug. 7).

"Many questions remain unanswered since the disaster," Chairman James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said in a statement. "The hearing will examine the immediate and long-term environmental and economic impacts to the states, local communities, and Indian tribes as a result of the spill."

Also in the Senate, the Indian Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing for the same day to explore the spill's impacts on Indian lands, including the Navajo Nation.

In the House, Science, Space and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) has invited McCarthy to address the panel Sept. 9.

And today the House Natural Resources Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee announced a joint hearing for Sept. 17, inviting McCarthy and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, whose department is conducting a probe of the accident.

Beyond questions about the spill, lawmakers, particularly Democrats, are likely to ask about the ongoing problem of abandoned mines around the country.

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